

Claims

What is claimed is:

1. A radio transmission device, comprising:  
a memory containing a relay uniform resource  
locator (URL), said relay URL indicating an address of a  
relay server programmed to transmit a profile URL  
indicating an address where a preference profile  
corresponding to said radio transmission device is stored;  
a transmitter connected to said memory such as to  
permit transmission of said relay URL to an appliance.

2. A device as in claim 1, wherein said memory  
contains a unique identifier of said radio transmission  
device for transmitting to said appliance.

3. A device as in claim 1, wherein said  
transmitter and said memory are part of a transponder with  
no internal power source.

4. A network server, comprising:  
a memory, a controller, and a network interface  
effective to respond to relay addresses stored on various  
ID devices and to receive an ID device identifier from one  
of said ID devices transmitted by an appliance;  
said controller being programmed to retrieve from  
said memory a profile address where a profile corresponding  
to said ID device identifier is stored;

9. said controller being programmed to transmit said  
10 profile address to said appliance.

1                    5.    An appliance, comprising:

2 a controller and a receiver connected thereto and  
3 effective to receive an ID device identifier;

4           a network interface connectable to a relay server  
5   corresponding to said ID device;

6                    said controller being programmed to transmit data  
7   responsive to said identifier to said relay server and  
8   receive a profile address in response from said relay  
9   server;

10           said controller being further programmed to  
11   access profile data on said profile server.

1           6.    A method of controlling the operation of an  
2    appliance, comprising the steps of:

3 delivering first access data to an appliance,

4 said access data providing network access to first

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5 configuration data;
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6 receiving at said appliance at least a portion of  
7 said first configuration data via said network;

8            configuring said appliance responsively to said  
9   first configuration data;

10. delivering second access data to said appliance,  
11. said second access data providing network access to second  
12. configuration data;  
13. receiving at said appliance at least a portion of  
14. said second configuration data;  
15. reconfiguring said appliance responsively to said  
16. second configuration data.

7. A method as in claim 6, wherein said first  
and second steps of delivering each include delivering data  
from a portable device permanently storing said first and  
second access data, respectively.

8. A method as in claim 7, wherein said first  
receiving step includes receiving first relay data  
responsive to a network server identified in said first  
access data, receiving profile data made accessible via  
said network by said first relay data and said second  
receiving step includes receiving second relay data  
responsive to a network server identified in said second  
access data, and receiving profile data made accessible via  
said network by said second relay data.

9. A method as in claim 6, wherein said first  
receiving step includes receiving first relay data  
responsive to a network server identified in said first  
access data, receiving profile data made accessible via

5. said network by said first relay data and said second  
6. receiving step includes receiving second relay data  
7. responsive to a network server identified in said second  
8. access data, and receiving profile data made accessible via  
9. said network by said second relay data.

10. A method as in claim 6, wherein:

2. said first and second steps of delivering include  
3. delivering data from a portable device permanently storing  
4. said first and second access data, respectively;

5. said device is a radio frequency identification  
6. device.

11. A method as in claim 10, wherein each of  
2. said first and second access data are permanently stored in  
3. respective first and second radio frequency identification  
4. devices.

12. A method as in claim 11, wherein said steps  
2. of delivering include co-locating a radio frequency  
3. identification device with said appliance.

13. A method as in claim 6, wherein said first  
5. step of receiving includes receiving a portion of profile  
data including data relating to said appliance and data  
relating to another type of appliance.

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